

## **KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 1995**

### **Present:** Commissioners -

Burton Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association  
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor  
Mary Tuisku, Mayor, Hancock

National Park Service –  
Bill Fink, KNHP Superintendent  
Ed Yarbrough, KNHP Historian  
Elizabeth Barrie, Seasonal Park Ranger  
Josef Balachowski, Historic Architect  
Lynn Bjorkmann, Cultural Resources Planner

Recording Secretary –  
Lisa Dwyer

### **Absent:** Commissioners -

Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner  
Peder Kitt, Calumet

### **Other Participants/Guests**

Midwest Field Director Bill Schenk, NPS  
GMP Team Captain, Mike Bureman, NPS

### Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, August 22, 1995 in Calumet, Michigan at the park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Paul Lehto.

### Introductions

Introductions of other participants and guests (listed above) were made by Paul Lehto and Bill Fink.

### Review of Minutes

The minutes of the May 16, 1995 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Burt Boyum and seconded by Kathryn Eckert, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

### Superintendent's Report

Bill Fink distributed a poster entitled *Summer in the Park*, detailing the 1995 summer interpretive activities. Without the opportunity to consult with many of the cooperating sites, a low budget, and not too much time to plan Fink said he felt that the program fell together rather well and what has been learned from this program can be applied to next season.

The budget outlook for the next fiscal year, Fink said, is in a state of uncertainty and there will be significant cuts for the Park Service.

A series of public meetings to introduce the initial alternatives of the General Management Plan developed by the GMP team will be held in Houghton, Calumet, Marquette, and Lansing beginning September 12, 13, and 14, 1995. After comments from these public reviews are analyzed, the GMP team will develop the "preferred alternative." Additional public meetings will be held next spring and summer to review the preferred plan. Once the reviews are completed, the GMP will take the plan to the Midwest Field Director for approval and then the plan will be submitted to Congress by September 1996.

On another matter, Fink said he is negotiating a lease with the doctors who own the building in which the park headquarters is located as well as requesting that additional office space be remodelled to accommodate the additional KNHP staff members.

#### Historical Architect's Report

Since he has only been here since July, Josef Balachowski said he has been familiarizing himself with the area and its resources. He has been informally meeting with people in Calumet and at cooperating sites to discuss potential use of buildings and the problems, which may be encountered along the way to the eventual use by the Park Service. He also has been in contact with other parks in the Great Lakes clusters to introduce himself.

#### Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough has completed most of the research for the Historic Research study, which is the groundwork for the interpretive programs. He said he is currently writing a special geological history study. He added that he will have his report completed by March 31, 1996 which is the when his appointment expires. The report will serve as a basis for interpretation and planning efforts, and it will be put on disk and available through computer access.

#### Preservation District Progress Report

Lynn Bjorkmann reported that she is near the end of her yearlong preservation study. As part of the study she has produced products which are required by law in order to enable local governments to enact a Historic Preservation Ordinance. The study includes a survey of properties within the entire villages of Laurium, Calumet, and the industrial and corporate district of the township as well as a data base, maps, and photographs of structures and properties in that area. Bjorkmann has recommended in her report that there is a critical need to survey other areas not included in her study such as the housing areas related to C & H and Tamarack as well as Quincy. Bjorkmann thanked all who helped with her study including Kathryn Eckert and her office, Paul Lehto, and the primary sponsor, WUPPDR. She introduced Steve Albee of WUPPDR who announced that the project won an award from the Michigan Association of Regions.

Fink added that in the meantime the park has contracted with Frank Gilbert from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to prepare an interim Historic Preservation Ordinance for Calumet Township.

#### Chairman's Report

At the present time, according to Chair Paul Lehto, there is approximately 22 million dollars being spent on various projects in the Calumet area. He mentioned three water projects, construction of the new school, and Moyle's Sixth Street project and he added that all of these projects have some kind of impact on the park even

if it is indirectly.

Renovation at St. Anne's Church is going on at a cost of \$50,000. Some of this money is grant money and some has been raised.

Calumet Township, from its own funds and with help from prisoners of the Houghton County Jail, has done some rehabilitation work to the #2 Warehouse Building to make it look more presentable, Lehto said. Vacant lots located on Sixth Street are having some minor landscaping done to them. Progress is being made regarding the purchase of Swedetown Trail properties through a DNR grant. It is moving slowly but progress is being made on the future Seaman Mineral satellite museum to be located in the Rowe warehouse building. And finally, some rehabilitation work is being done on the Mine Captain's house on Sixth Street in Calumet.

#### Reports and Comments from the Commissioners

Burt Boyum introduced Jim Vivian Sr. saying he is the person responsible for bringing to the Quincy Mine Hoist Association some time ago, a proposal to build a tramway to transport visitors from the Hoist down to the Michigan Tech Experimental Mine for tours. The QMHA has now received a \$420,000 grant from EDA to build the tramway. This grant money will be applied toward a total cost of \$600,000 making the QMHA's matching share \$180,000. A capital fund drive will take place to raise the \$180,000. The association is a 501c3 corporation so that donations are tax deductible. Larry Lankton said he would like the tramway to look as much like the original technology as possible. Bynum said the QMHA board constantly strives to emulate and preserve historical heritage whenever it is possible, but there are considerations such as safety of the passenger, which could affect the design.

Boyum said QMHA board would like to see what a typical cooperative agreement from another park in the National Park Service so they might have some guidance at least until an official agreement is in place here.

On another matter, Boyum explained that QMHA has a lease on the Quincy Smelter. Roofs of the two principal buildings have collapsed. A grant was obtained through the state, in order to at least stabilize those buildings. QMHA had to prove that it had raised and spent 40% of the matching grant (\$5,640) in order to qualify for the remaining 60% of the grant or (\$8,478). Boyum requested that the Park Service reimburse QMHA.

Another money obligation which QMHA took on was the result of a Michigan Tech industrial archaeology student who approached QMHA few years ago who was interested in laying out visitor walking paths on the surface of the Quincy. Quincy acquiesced to Michigan Tech on this project and now has a \$5,000 obligation.

Boyum asked Fink if KNHP could hire students from the Industrial Archaeology program at Michigan Tech to work for the park next summer. Bill Fink said he has spoken with Curt Tompkins, president of MTU, regarding the possibility of contracting with the University next year to hire qualified students who are adequately trained and backed up by Social Sciences IA department staff.

Boyum said there has been some confusion by senior citizens who have the Passport from the National Park Service and think that the Passport allows them entrance to all cooperating sites such as the Hoist. He suggested somehow to make visitors aware that the NPS Passport does not allow visitors automatic access to cooperating sites. Fink said he gave all the cooperation sites a letter last year explaining which sites operate independently of the park and to help clarify how the park entrance passes and fees work.

Kathryn Eckert announced that the historic preservation grant cycle has begun in her office. Applications are

available and the deadline to submit to her office is November 30, 1995. Funding is very limited, she continued, but somehow each year her office has been able to direct a portion of these funds to projects in the Copper Country.

On another matter, Eckert announced that her office is preparing, under the direction of the National Park Service, Michigan's Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. This will be a guide on preservation activities statewide over the next five years - a plan not for the preservation office but rather for the people of Michigan in their preservation activities. A draft has been widely distributed to agencies and individuals for review and comments. Her office plans to complete the draft plan by September 19 and then do a second phase of it after that.

Mary Tuisku said she is pleased with what she sees in the Calumet and it is a pleasure to take visitors to the Calumet area not only to see the historic district but also the shops which have been renovated. Tuisku said she anxious to see Moyle's project completed and is optimistic about the outcome and she applauds the vision and efforts of Quincy and Calumet.

Tuisku said she was very offended by the derogatory article published in the Wall Street Journal this past summer, which dealt with the validity of the establishment of KNHP saying that much will have to be done to negate the damage. Bill Fink said that a rebuttal has been sent to the Wall Street Journal from Senator Levin. No word on whether it or any other rebuttals will be published or not. Burt Boyum commented that he and some others from the area met the journalist when he was in the Keweenaw and Boyum got the impression the journalist not only had already written the article before he came, but he was "poorly informed and poorly equipped."

The Hancock waterfront project is one of many different projects, which the City of Hancock is dealing with right now, according to Tuisku. The city is working with developers and wants to make sure that the waterfront is an appropriate gateway to the park and that the waterfront is historical correct.

A \$56,000 grant was received by the City of Hancock to beautify the downtown streetscape. The city's Historic Preservation Commission is working with city to make sure that whatever is done is historically correct. The City Council has gone on record to say that it is going to be extremely tough on residents and businesses who do not maintain their property. She said the city wants to be able to have some walking tours established by next summer. The series of stairways between Quincy and the Hancock waterfront could tie nicely into a walking tour.

Larry Lankton commented on the Industrial Archaeology graduate program at Michigan Tech in the Department of Social Sciences saying that is a relatively new program, only three years old, but much has been done during that time and a good portion of it has had to do with the park and the history of the Copper Country. Faculty member and archaeologist, Pat Martin is now the new editor of the Journal of Industrial Archaeology, the official journal of industrial archaeologists. New faculty member, Kim Hoagland, an architectural historian will be teaching a new class on recording historic structures. Faculty members David Landon and Susan Martin conducted a dig at the Norwich Mine site in Ontonagon County this summer. Department Head, Terry Reynolds, and Susan Martin are supervising a graduate student who is doing a survey of mine sites in Ontonagon County. Susan Martin is going to studying the uses of prehistoric native copper. Lankton said a student under his direction will be working on a text on the Copper Range Mining Company. A Social Sciences graduate student last year worked on a Quincy Hill walking tour plan. Lankton himself was on sabbatical last year working on a book on the everyday life of people on the mining frontier from the 1840s to the 1870s. In conclusion, said he feels the IA program in the Social Sciences Department is making a contribution to the interpretive part of the park.

### Reports and Comments from Special Guests

Congressman Bart Stupak said that Congress will be looking closely at two important issues regarding the NPS operating budget. One is an increase in park fees and the other is concession reform - meaning who sells the goods and wares within the parks. So while the NPS general operating revenues are projected to go down about 10% over the next 7 years, there are other ways in which Congress is looking to increase funding for the parks. Stupak emphasized the importance of thoroughly documenting all the efforts that are being made by various communities and individuals, funding which is being generated, and projects being planned or in progress to develop KNHP in order to demonstrate that this is truly a partnership park.

Stupak commented that he, too, has sent a rebuttal letter to the Wall Street Journal regarding the negative article on KNHP.

Kevin Weir, representing Senator Carl Levin's office and Ann Miller, of Representative Paul Tesanovich's office and Senator Koivisto's office were in the audience and they each commented that the officials they represent send their greetings and support.

Sue Cone on behalf of the Village of Calumet stressed the importance of administering the findings of Lynn Bjorkmann's Historic District Ordinance study and requested funding from the NPS to assure good use of the study in the future.

Bill Schenk spoke on the NPS reorganization in progress saying that the Midwest Region is one of seven remaining regions where there use to be ten. Staff is being reduced - some by retirement and others by buy-outs through the park system. Because of the issue of reorganization and staff reduction, there is a much slower response time to requests made of the NPS staff. He went on to say, as an agency the Park Service will become more and more reliant on work done in each individual community with partners in terms of funds, volunteers, and contributions of written materials and research work at college and universities. In conclusion, he sees KNHP off to a very positive start.

Congressman Stupak asked Schenk if there are any discretionary funds available through the NPS office for emergency purposes such as stabilizing structures. Schenk said there are funds available, but the issue is not the money. It is the legal ability to transfer the funds in the way that it is requested. The nature of the cooperative agreements doesn't allow it, yet. He said he believes this legality can eventually be resolved.

### GMP Team Captain Mike Bureman

Mike Bureman distributed a report titled *A Compendium of GMP Working Documents for Team Reference*. This document summarizes all information collected on the KNHP effort. He also distributed copies of the *Briefing Document Alternative Concepts Keweenaw National Historical Park Michigan*. He spoke of the key points of the four alternatives in the document, saying that other alternative plans can certainly be added if any more are formulated. He added that the alternative plan ultimately selected will probably incorporate important elements from several of the preliminary alternatives along with other key concepts developed in the review process. He summarized the concept of each alternative. Alternative 1 - The NPS owns nothing, but provides financial and technical assistance to others to preserve/manage/interpret all significant resources. Alternative 2 - The NPS owns/manages/interprets only the most significant resources in the industrial core area. Alternative 3 - NPS owns most significant resources within the park boundaries. Alternative 4 - This is a combinations of Alternatives 1 and 2. The major focus is for the NPS to lead the development of, and then have local units of government adopt detailed historic preservation ordinances. This has to be done to assure that the local community is willing to do its part to preserve the historic character and integrity of the park

area. Presuming that local governments do adopt and administer in this manner, the park can move on to its final development as a prototype for partnership parks of the 21st Century according to Alternative plan #4.

Steve Albee of the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Authority (WUPPDR) stressed the importance of continuing to educate the public on the park effort.

The Village of Calumet has received \$150,000 in rehabilitation funds, according to John Garbor of Calumet, thanks to the village engineer and his firm which will provide \$150,000 a year for the next 10 years to be used in the village on its housing. He added that it will improve the overall look of the village.

A motion for adjournment was made by Mary Tuisku and seconded by Burt Boyum. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 1995 at 8:30 a.m. in Calumet, Michigan at the park headquarters. The commissioners decided to set a date for the winter meeting next time they meet.